



River of Time Museum

Fountain Hills & Lower Verde Valley
MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Debbie Skehen, Editor

Wayne/Anne Wicklund, WebWolf Internet Services

Mar/Apr 2006

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WHY THE IRISH ARE HONORED IN MEXICO

Special Dates of Interest:

- March 1, Wed, 3rd Anniversary of *River of Time Museum*, 1-4 pm
- March 7, Tues, Docent Meeting, 9:30 am
- March 15, Wed, Historical Society Dinner, 6 pm
- April 1, Sat, 12:30 & 6 pm, Bingo at Ft. McDowell
- April 4, Docent Meeting, 9:30 am
- April 8, Sat, 6 pm Hall of Fame Dinner
- April 10, Mon, Exhibit Opening "Original Illustrations for Children's Literature"
- April 22, Sat, Reception for new exhibit
- May 2, Tues, Docent Meeting, 9:30 am
- May 17, Wed, Historical Society Dinner, 6 pm

In Mexico, the Irish are revered for the part they played in that country's history. Special ceremonies, commemorative medallions and plaques honor a group of Irish soldiers considered traitors by the United States Army.

Come hear the story of the San Patricios at the March 15 Dinner Meeting of Fountain Hills and Lower Verde Valley Historical Society.

Speaker Bill O'Brien first heard about the San Patricios while buying wool in South America. His travels have taken him from California to Arizona and around the world, accumulating fascinating experiences and stories along the way.

It's also the 3rd birthday of the River of Time Museum! To hear more about the San Patricios and celebrate our birthday, the society asks you to make your reservation by Sunday, March 12. The general public is invited to the program and catered buffet dinner at the Fountain Hills Community Center. Reservations may be made by calling the River of Time Museum at 480/837-2612 or e-mail to reservations@riveroftimemuseum.org. For members the price is \$18. For non-members, it is \$22. The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; cocktails are available at 6:00 p.m. The menu will be salad, corned beef & cab-



bage, and, of course, Birthday Cake! Let us know if you prefer a vegetarian dish.

~ Bonnie Kline

tees at the gala, black-tie optional dinner. Thank you Foundation Trustees Robert Thomson, Alan Cruikshank, Jerry Miles, Paul Kolwaite, Sharon Morgan, Pamela Mott of Ft. McDowell, and John Mooty of Rio Verde for supporting the River of Time Museum with this event. Sharon Morgan is our very able Chairperson for this dinner. All proceeds from the dinner assist with the operation of the River of Time Museum.

Those selected for the Class of 2006 are listed below:

From Fort McDowell:

Joan Enos and Yuma Frank

From Fountain Hills:

Evelyn Breting, Holly Cruikshank, Jeff Dayton, Bruce Hansen, Paul Kolwaite, Marti Lemieux, Hank Lickman, Paul May, Myran "Mike" Mayper, Sharon Morgan, Paul Nordin, John O'Flynn and Beth Kalmbach Shafe

From Rio Verde:

Charlie Alexander and Dave Ritchie

Congratulations

to our 2006

Hall of Fame members!



Hall of Fame Dinner

The upcoming Lower Verde River Valley Hall of Fame gala dinner on April 8th is the one night of the year that all of the communities of our region come together and celebrate The River of Time Museum Foundation's annual selection of inductees. It is truly a special evening. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals, living and deceased, whose involvement has contributed in a positive way to the betterment of the communities of the Lower Verde River Valley - Fountain Hills, Fort McDowell, the Verdes communities and Goldfield Ranch. The River of Time Museum Foundation, a 501©3 non-profit corporation announces its selections annually and recognizes induc-



DOCENT MEETING

Be sure and attend the Mar 7 meeting at the Museum to get a clear feel for what our Docents and Diplomats do—you can help and we need **YOU!**




The River of Time Museum is certified by the Arizona Historical Society



From the Desk of Alan Cruikshank

Can you believe the museum is three years old? We've had so much going on at the museum in recent weeks that we've almost overlooked our facility's birthday.

Wednesday, March 1, we will have refreshments available during regular museum hours that day. I'd like to invite all of you members and museum volunteers to stop by that afternoon for conversation, cookies and punch. Nothing fancy, just a chance to get together.

I want to thank Niobe Borman for an outstanding job of chairing our recent Pony Express Day. We had a good turnout and we will be looking at how we can continue to build this event. Niobe is one of our new board members and she has become very involved. We're very pleased to have you on board, Niobe. Our director, Judy Confer, Chairperson Charlotte McCluskey and Traveling Exhibit Chairman Allen Fossenkemper did a fine job with the Los Artistas Vaqueros show and sale. I think this event has a great future for us. Charlotte and her Image Weavers partner Francesca Carozza promoted the event and lined up Doug Schmidt, Legacy Asset Management, Inc., as the reception sponsor.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 1, when we will have another Bingo fund-raiser at Fort McDowell Casino. There will be afternoon and evening sessions. See the details elsewhere in this issue of the Legacy. Linda Kavanagh and Sharon Hutcheson are the co-chairs of this event.

The annual Lower Verde Valley Hall of Fame banquet is set for Saturday, April 8, at the new Fort McDowell Radisson Resort and Casino. We will be installing another 15 people into the Hall of Fame. Bob Lickman headed the selection committee. This is a fund-raiser for the River of Time Museum Foundation and the dinner has become one of the prestige events held each year in our town. Tickets are available for \$150 per person, and reservations and payment are due by March 22. Don't be left out, so call the museum for details, 837-2612.

I want to thank Ann and Earl Stavely and their assistants at the River Bank Store for their check of \$5,000 to the museum. You are all doing a fine job with the store.

Thanks to Vice President Debbie Skehen and husband Joe who do such a fantastic job handling our Membership Committee. They have been getting everyone current with their dues, attracting new members and bringing in donations.

In closing this month, I invite you to come to our March 15 dinner meeting. Program Chairperson Bonnie Kline has put together a program with a St. Patrick's theme. I'll see you there.

From the Desk of Museum Archivist by Dave Roberts

The following is excerpted from a Museum Archives album, entitled "*Livestock Brands on the P-Bar Ranch*". Janice Ryan Bryson, daughter of Emmett Ryan and granddaughter of former Box Bar rancher owner Bill Ryan, recounts vignettes of Emmett's '*Club*' brand that ran on the 33,000 acre P-Bar in the early 1960s, an interim period between its sale by previous principal owner Delsie Barkdoll-Robbins (1935-1955) and its conversion to McDowell Mountain Park (21,100 acres) & Fountain Hills (11,400 acres).

At this time, my Dad was in a partnership with Bob Roether and they were buying cattle on the Papago Reservation and selling them at the livestock auction in Casa Grande. They had the Roether and Ryan Cattle Company. One of the cowboys who worked for my Dad was Bill Barnett. It must have been boring for a young man in his 20s as the (P-Bar) ranch was isolated and had no electricity. One advantage was that there was nothing to do but read in the evening. Bill wasn't a good reader when he came to the ranch – but he was when he left. My Dad always kept a lot of Louis Lamour pocket books around. Another employee was Al Ondrate. He had a mining claim in the McDowell Mountains about 2 miles away from the ranch – always thinking he would strike it rich the next day. He wasn't doing well so my Dad let him live at the ranch house [Ed. note: formerly at the Fountain Hills high school site] and he pumped the water for the stock tanks – in return for which he got room and board. He ate a lot, so it was a costly expense. One of the wells had an old Fairbanks Jensen 1 cylinder engine that was original to the headquarters of the ranch. It dated back to the turn of the century and used a crank to start it. The engine blew a head gasket – replacement parts were actually found at an old shop across the street from Cudahy's on 48th Street and Washington – they had 2 head gaskets.



SOCIETY BOARD OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Alan Cruikshank	
<i>Vice President</i>	Debbie Skehen	Executive Director
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Wicklund	Judy Starr Confer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Still looking	

BOARD MEMBERS	Mary Davenport Arlie Denomme Walt Dunne	Sharon Hutcheson Linda Kavanagh Keith McMahan	Keith Millett Dr. Clinton Pattea Peg Tibbetts	Rick Wambach
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From the Director's Desk by **Judy Starr Confer**

The week-long Pony Express Western Days, a joint Museum and Chamber of Commerce event, started with the American Legion's Cowboy Dinner and then the opening of the "Los Artistas Vaqueros" of the Verde Valley exhibit on January 28. Los Artistas Vaqueros is a select group of artists dedicated to preserving the essence and history of the old southwest through depiction of its culture and tradition. Members may work in any medium. Their art must represent a reverence for the fabric of southwestern culture, and should demonstrate first-hand knowledge of the history and lore of the region. Work of our Cowboy Artists – Carlos Hadaway, Bob Boze Bell, Doug Katonak, Paul Kolwaite and Christine Marchell -- is on display through March 23. The public may continue to purchase these fine quality works of art until the end of the show. Thanks to our sponsor, Doug Schmidt of Legacy Asset Management, the reception was a smashing success most ably chaired by Charlotte McCluskey and Francesca Carozza of Image Weavers.

The excitement of hosting lunch, dinner, and a beer garden on the museum's patio with entertainment all day on the patio and in the main lobby – and the line dancing and a bake sale manned by our winter residents, diplomats and docents, made this event one of our most exciting. The thrill of greeting the Hashknife Pony Express Riders as they deliver the mail on horseback to the Fountain Hills Post Office takes us all back to our childhood and into history. 5th graders wrote interpretative essays about the year-long Pony Express Mail Delivery System and were honored by Mayor Wally Nichols. Thank you Niobe Borman for your creative chairmanship!

CHANGING EXHIBIT

The Maricopa County Library District has selected the River of Time Museum to host "Original Illustrations for Children's Literature" from April 10 through June 16. We are the only location in Arizona where the work of Robert Sabuda will be exhibited. His pop-up books are especially featured. This exhibit will draw people from throughout the county and state to our Museum.



THE

online store is almost ready to take shape—we need help! And you don't have to be a major merchandiser. If you like to pack it and ship it—you're for us. Lots of heartfelt rewards.

Call Anne @ 837-0190



Membership Report and Upgrades by Joe and Debbie Skehen

Please welcome the following new members to our Historical Society! :

Paul & Marti Lemieux * Dean & Melba Versaw

Membership Upgrades: We are extremely pleased to announce that membership dues and enhancements for 2006 have so far amounted to \$14,185 in revenue for the Historical Society and Museum. We are very appreciative of the dedication and support of our members and special donors as listed below:

A special thank you to the following who renewed their membership at an elevated level for 2006. They are

Adventurer Level: \$1,000+

Keith & Dottie Millett

John & Pat VanDerWerf

John & Jane Mooty

Mary Zicarelli

Pioneer Level: \$500-999

John & Carol Coates

Fred & Barb Hansen

Walter & Janet Johnson

John & Linda Kavanagh

Robert & Velma Monks

Joe & Debbie Skehen

Paul & Margie Slater

Wagonmaster Level: \$250-499

Arthur & Jeanette Carpentier

Richard M. Carrabine

Hosea & Lily Harkness

Robert & Barbara Hegwood

Larry & Sharon Hutcheson

Carolyn McClure

Dave & Edith Roberts

From the River Bank by Ann Stavely



We now have a new service to offer. **Gift certificates** are available for your gift-giving convenience. You choose the amount!

We also have many new items in stock. Many ideas for gifts for others or for yourself!

GIFT CERTIFICATES

Bingo Night at Ft. McDowell

The Charity Bingo Day at the Fort McDowell Casino is set for Saturday, April 1st, so mark your calendars and plan to attend this fun event! This year features two sessions of play time, a matinee at 12:30 pm and an evening session at 6:30 pm. Charity Packs are only \$5.00 and include not only the whole session of play but also a Museum commemorative dauber and a raffle ticket for one of the additional prizes.

Remember that this event brings in a lot of much needed revenue for the Museum so tell your friends and plan on having a fun day at the Fort. No experience is necessary to play and you may come home a big winner! For more information, call me at 480-837-5612 or e-mail lmkavanagh@cox.net.

~~ Linda Kavanagh, Chair

Pathfinder Level: \$100-249

Charlie Axtell

Walt & Mali Berger

Hank & Roxanne Boryczki

Gaylord & Carmen Bovee

Martin & Terry Brown

Craig & Jeanine Capirchio

Joan Colomo

Harold & Arlie Denomme

John Dunleavy

Walt Dunne

John & Colleen Elken

Lee & Shirley Fisher

William & Lois Grate

Bruce & Cassie Hansen

Elert & Christine Johnson

John & Carol Kendall

Jon and Diana Klesner

Shelly Knuths

Allen & Sharon Koehlinger

Robert & Marsha Krane

Marvin & Darline Leader

John & Borgny Lee

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Beth Shafe

John & Val Stasik

Robert & Diane Thomson

James & Roberta Urban

Tom & Pat Wells

Wayne & Anne Wicklund/Snow



**THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER
FOUNTAIN HILLS AND LOWER
VERDE VALLEY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM**

P.O. Box 17445

Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269

Phone: 480-837-2612

Fax 480-836-4292

Email: info@riveroftimemuseum.org



*The River of Time Museum is certified
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

www.riveroftimemuseum.org

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION

General Individual Membership

\$20 / Year

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\$100 - \$249

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\$250 - \$499



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On a higher financial level or a gift

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Contact Me.

PIONEER \$500 or MORE

Name(s): _____ **Phone :** _____

Address: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Membership Payment of \$ _____ **enclosed or**

Please Charge my VISA MASTERCARD

Card# _____ **Expiration Date** _____

Signature _____

**• The IRS has designated this Society and Museum as a 501 (C) (3) organization and
Donations are tax deductible to donor. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.**